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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God our Creator and Redeemer, we are accompanied by Your blessings. May these blessings motivate our Senators to rededicate themselves to Your service, striving to keep America strong. Make their hearts reservoirs of love, purity, and honesty. Lord, keep them calm in temper, clear in mind, and sound in heart, as You inspire them to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. May the tyranny of partisanship and expediency never bend their conscience to low aims which betray high principles.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 99, which is the Transportation appropriations bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 99, S. 1243, a bill making appropriations for the De-

partments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the time until noon will be equally divided and controlled. At noon there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1243. If cloture is invoked, all postcloture time will be yielded back and we will vote on adoption of the motion to proceed. I hope that will be a voice vote and we can begin consideration of the bill immediately following the vote at noon.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. today for our weekly caucus meetings.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that Senator CHIESA be recognized at 2:15 p.m. today for up to 15 minutes to deliver his maiden speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I am so happy to see the Presiding Officer. The Senator might have presided before but I haven't been able to witness that. So I am very happy to have the Senator here. We are so fortunate to have him here with his wide-ranging experience as a Member of Congress. My time in the House was some of the most pleasant times of my career. I so admire and respect the House of Representatives. And for the Presiding Officer to have spent almost four decades there indicates the people of Massachusetts will have someone here who will immediately hit the ground running, and we are very happy to have the Senator with us. We have the committee the Senator wanted, and with the wide experience he has had in the areas of his choice, he will be a great benefit to Massachusetts and our country.

Today the Senate will begin work on the Transportation, Housing and Urban

Development bill. It is a bipartisan measure that received six Republican votes coming out of the full committee. This legislation will strengthen our economy by investing in roadways, railways, airports, bridges, and more. I applaud the full committee chair BARBARA MIKULSKI for her good work and being so excited about bringing forth the appropriations bills, and long-time member of the Appropriations Committee chairwoman PATTY MURRAY. She is chair of the subcommittee that will be working on that for the next few days. I appreciate their diligence and their bipartisan work on this measure.

The Transportation, Housing appropriations bill has always been a bipartisan bill. As we speak, we have 70,000 bridges in this country in need of major repair. We have bridges in America today where schoolbuses unload their children before going over the bridge. We have bridges that are in need of extensive repair and some that need to be replaced completely. One of every five miles of American roads is not up to safety standards, so it is easy to see why this bipartisan effort to upgrade America's crumbling infrastructure is so important. Our deficient roads, bridges, railways, and runways are a drag on our economy.

But this crisis is also an opportunity—an opportunity—to create jobs by rebuilding America, which needs replenishing, restoring, and rebuilding. This bill will make traveling safer and more efficient for American families and businesses.

We get so upset when we are on roads and freeways that are jammed and we think how inconvenient it is for us. Think how inconvenient it is for one of those trucks that is carrying products to be delivered and sold, how much it is costing each of us in our individual vehicles, and how it is costing us more every minute that truck is stopped in a road because of heavy traffic. It is more expensive than virtually everything we do in America. We have to do

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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